

PRIVATE GOLD COINS
STRUCK IN THE
UNITED STATES
1830-1861

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A COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED LIST OF THE
VARIOUS COINS ISSUED BY PRIVATE
ASSAYERS IN GEORGIA, CAROLINA,
COLORADO, UTAH, OREGON
AND CALIFORNIA



COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY
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1931

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FIRST EDITION

FOREWORD

The gold coins struck by private assayers and mints in the United States form one of the most interesting series in the numismatics of our country. The first of these were issued by Templeton Reid, who established a mint near the gold mines in Lumpkin County, Georgia. The next coins were those struck by the Bechtlers, Christopher and August, from 1831 to 1842 or later. Their mint in Rutherford, N. C., struck pieces from the gold of Georgia and North Carolina to the amount of over two million dollars.

Upon the discovery of gold in California and the influx of prospectors and traders there was an immediate need for a medium of exchange other than the unwieldy bags of gold dust. Several firms struck coins in 1849 and the State Assay Office of California, with Frederick D. Kohler as State Assayer, began stamping ingots early in 1850; a few of these still exist. In the latter part of 1850 the firm of Moffat & Co. were designated as United States Assay representatives and Augustus Humbert of New York was appointed United States Assayer to place the government stamp upon the ingots produced by Moffat & Co. This business was in 1852 conducted under the name of the United States Assay Office. For a full account of the preceding and the operations of other companies see Edgar H. Adams "Private Gold Coinage of California."

The Mormon coinage grew out of the same necessity and appeared early in 1849. It did not, however, compare with the California coinages in actual intrinsic value.

The firm of Clark, Gruber & Co. in Denver coined gold from the Colorado mines and produced over \$500,000 worth in 1860 and 1861. The Parsons and Conway companies were much smaller operators.

Way up in Oregon the same need for a medium of exchange produced the two pieces struck by the Oregon Exchange Co. in 1849.

It has been thought best to limit the scope of this work to a complete illustrated list of the various coinages, excepting the minor die varieties existing in some of the California pieces.

Weights are given where known, a large portion of these are taken from the catalogue of the Coins in the United States Mint Collection.

I am much indebted to the U. S. National Museum, the American Numismatic Society and Mr. Edgar H. Adams for certain illustrations.

WAYTE RAYMOND.

New York, May, 1931.

REFERENCES

Adams, Edgar H.—Private Gold Coinage of California 1849-1855, Its History and Issues. New York 1913.

Catalogue of the Coins, Tokens and Medals in the Numismatic Collection of the Mint of the United States. Washington 1912.

Eckfeldt & DuBois (U. S. Mint Assayers)—Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations. Philadelphia 1842, and New Varieties of Gold and Silver Coins, New York 1851.



STRUCK IN THE UNITED STATES

GEORGIA

TEMPLETON REID

Lumpkin County, Georgia 1830



2½ Dollars 1830.....Weight 60 gr.



5 Dollars 1830.....Weight 123 gr.



10 Dollars 1830.....Weight 251 gr.



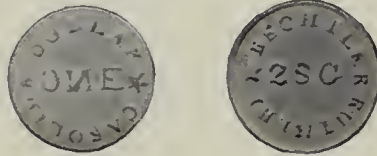
10 Dollars. Undated.....Weight 248 gr.

The preceding pieces were the first private gold coins to be struck in this country.

NORTH CAROLINA

CHRISTOPHER BECHTLER

Rutherford, North Carolina 1831-1842



Dollar. CAROLINA. 28G.....Weight 34.5 gr.



Dollar. N. CAROLINA. 28G



Dollar. N. CAROLINA. 30G.....Weight 29.8 gr.



2½ Dollars. CAROLINA GOLD. 67G. 21C.



2½ Dollars. CAROLINA GOLD. 70G. 20C.....Weight 68.8 gr.



2½ Dollars. GEORGIA GOLD. 64G 22C.....Weight 63.7 gr.

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2½ Dollars. NORTH CAROLINA GOLD. 75G. 20C.



2½ Dollars. As preceding, without 75G.



2½ Dollars. 20C. on obverse, 75G. on reverse.



5 Dollars. CAROLINA GOLD. 140G. 20C.
RUTHERF. Weight 137.5 gr.



5 Dollars. As preceding. RUTHERFORD.

PRIVATE GOLD COINS



5 Dollars. CAROLINA GOLD. 134G. 21C.....Weight 135.2 gr.



5 Dollars. GEORGIA GOLD. 128G. 22C.
RUTHERF. Average weight 127.6 gr.



5 Dollars. As preceding. RUTHERFORD.....Weight 135.2 gr.



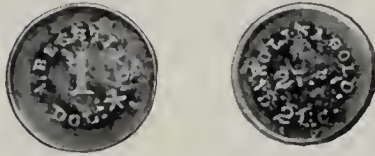
5 Dollars. NORTH CAROLINA GOLD. 150 G. 20C.,
Weight 135.2 gr.



5 Dollars. As preceding, without 150G.

STRUCK IN THE UNITED STATES

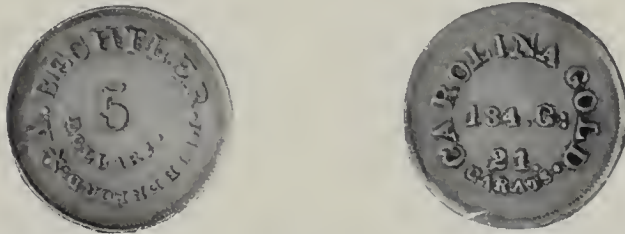
AUGUST BECHTLER
1842-1852



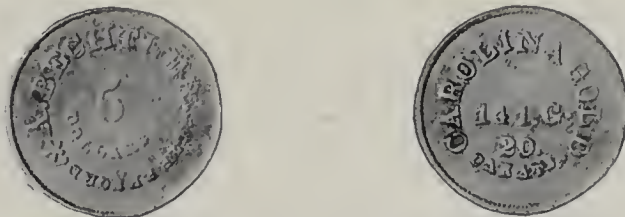
Dollar. CAROLINA GOLD. 27G. 21C.



5 Dollars. CAROLINA GOLD. 128G. 22C.



5 Dollars. CAROLINA GOLD. 134G. 21C.



5 Dollars. CAROLINA GOLD. 141G. 20C.

A most interesting account of the Bechtlers is contained in a pamphlet published in 1929 by Clarence Griffin, County Historian, Rutherford County, N. C., "The Bechtlers and Bechtler Coinage and Gold Mining in North Carolina 1814-1830."

COLORADO

CLARK, GRUBER & CO.

Denver 1860-1861



2½ Dollars 1860.



5 Dollars 1860.....Weight 138.8 gr.



10 Dollars 1860.....Weight 275.7 gr.



20 Dollars 1860.....Weight 568 gr.

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2½ Dollars 1861.....Weight 74 gr.



5 Dollars 1861.



10 Dollars 1861.....Weight 295.7



20 Dollars 1861.

The firm of Clark, Gruber & Co. was composed of Milton E. Clark, Austin M. Clark and E. H. Gruber. They coined pieces almost exclusively from gold produced in the Colorado mines.

PRIVATE GOLD COINS

JOHN PARSONS & CO.
Tarryall Mines 1861



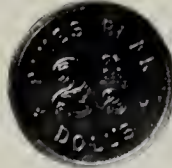
2½ Dollars.....Weight 73.5 gr.



5 Dollars.....Weight 128.3 gr.

Parsons' mint was located near the Tarryall Mines which were discovered in 1859.

J. J. CONWAY & CO.
Georgia Gulch 1861



2½ Dollars.....Weight 68 gr.



5 Dollars.....Weight 140 gr.



10 Dollars.....Weight 260 gr.

Conway & Co. are thought to have been located in Parkville at the mouth of the Georgia Gulch.

UTAH

MORMON COINS 1849-1860



2½ Dollars 1849.....Weight 56.5 gr.



5 Dollars 1849.....Weight 113.5 gr.



10 Dollars 1849.....Weight 221.5 gr.

PRIVATE GOLD COINS



20 Dollars 1849.....Weight 444.5 gr.



5 Dollars 1850.....Weight 111 gr.



5 Dollars 1860.....Weight 116 gr.

The Mormons established their mint to coin the large quantities of gold dust received from California. All the coins were short weight in comparison with the regular U. S. coinage. The 20 Dollar piece was the first coin of this denomination to be struck in the country. It had an intrinsic value of only \$16 to \$18. The letters G.S.L.C.P.G. = "Great Salt Lake City Pure Gold."

CALIFORNIA

BALDWIN & CO.

San Francisco 1850-1851



5 Dollars 1850.....Weight 132.5 gr.
S.M.V. = "Standard Mint Value."



10 Dollars 1850.....Weight 263.8 gr.



10 Dollars 1851.....Weight 259.5 gr. average



20 Dollars 1851.....Weight 517 gr. average

PRIVATE GOLD COINS

CINCINNATI MINING & TRADING CO.
San Francisco 1849



5 Dollars 1849.....Weight 132.5 gr.



10 Dollars 1849.....Weight 258.3 gr.

DUBOSQ & CO.
San Francisco 1850



5 Dollars 1850.....Weight 131 gr.



10 Dollars 1850.....Weight 262 gr.

STRUCK IN THE UNITED STATES

DUNBAR & CO.
San Francisco 1851



5 Dollars 1851.....Weight 131 gr.

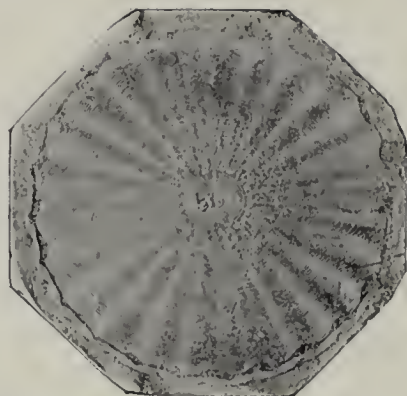
AUGUSTUS HUMBERT
U. S. Assayer, California 1851



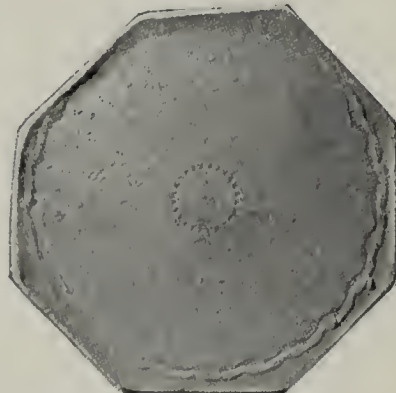
50 Dollars 1851. Name and date incuse on edge. 50 on reverse.
Fineness 880. Weight 1310 to 1320 gr., as all that follow.



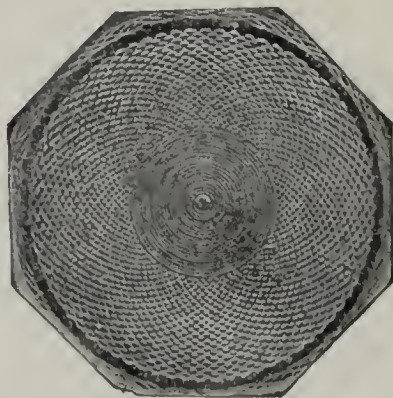
50 Dollars 1851. As preceding. Without 50 on reverse.



50 Dollars 1851. Fineness 887. With 50 on reverse.

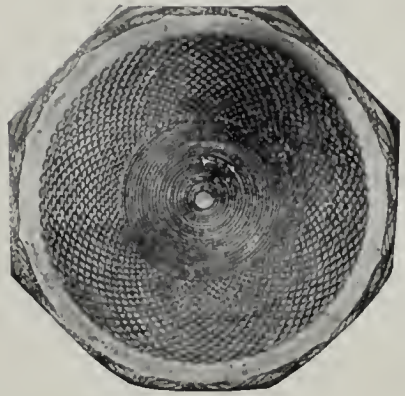


50 Dollars 1851. As preceding. Without 50 on reverse.

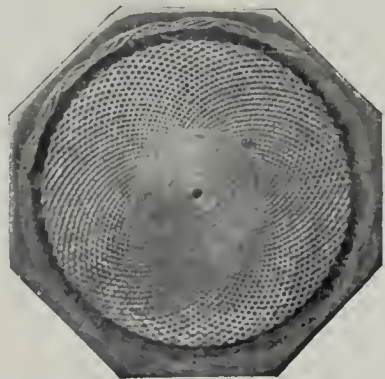


50 Dollars 1851. Milled edge. 880 Thous.
Target centre, as on the following.

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50 Dollars 1851. Milled edge. 887 Thous.



50 Dollars 1852. Milled edge. 887 Thous.



20 Dollars 1852.....Weight 516 gr.

PRIVATE GOLD COINS



10 Dollars 1852.....Weight 263 gr.

KELLOGG & CO. San Francisco 1854



20 Dollars 1854.....Weight 515.7 gr.



20 Dollars 1855.

There are die varieties in both the preceding.



50 Dollars 1855.....Weight 1309 gr.

F. D. KOHLER
State Assayer, California 1850

F. D. KOHLER
STATE ASSAYER
SAC: CAL 1850
20 CARAT.
4 2 DWT. 12 GRS
\$36.55 CTS.

\$36.55 Ingot 1850. Sacramento Office.

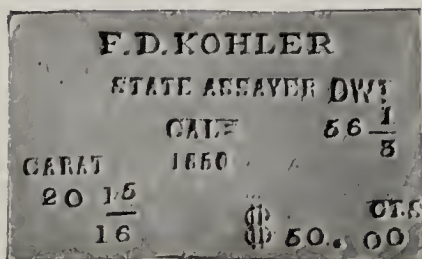
F. D. KOHLER
STATE ASSAYER DWT
CARAT CAL = 44 $\frac{3}{4}$
21 $\frac{1}{8}$ 1850 CTS
\$40.07

\$40.07 Ingot 1850. San Francisco Office.

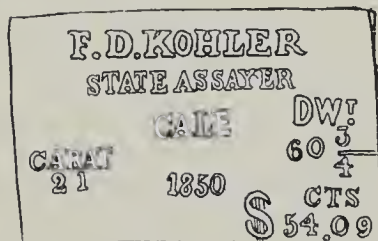
F. D. KOHLER
STATE ASSAYER
CALIF. 1850
CARAT. 21 $\frac{1}{8}$
DWT 49 $\frac{3}{4}$
GRS 45.34

\$45.34 Ingot 1850. San Francisco Office.

PRIVATE GOLD COINS



50 Dollar Ingot 1850. San Francisco Office.



\$54.09 Ingot 1850. San Francisco Office.

These ingots were stamped from gold bars and precede the fifty dollar slugs.

MASSACHUSETTS & CALIFORNIA CO. San Francisco 1849



5 Dollars 1849.....Weight 115.2 gr.

MINERS BANK San Francisco 1849



10 Dollars.....Weight 213.2 gr.

MOFFAT & CO.
San Francisco 1849



5 Dollars 1849.....Weight 130 gr. average



10 Dollars 1849.....Weight 258.25 gr. average
There is also a variety with TEN D. on reverse.



5 Dollars 1850.....Weight 129.2 gr.



10 Dollars 1852.....Weight 264 gr.

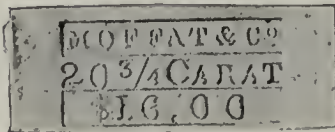
PRIVATE GOLD COINS



20 Dollars 1853.....Weight 516 gr.



\$9.43 Ingot.....Weight 245.2 gr.



16 Dollar Ingot.....Weight 444 gr.

NORRIS, GRIEG & NORRIS

San Francisco 1849



5 Dollars 1849.....Weight 130 gr. average

With plain and milled edge.

The first coin to be struck in California.

STRUCK IN THE UNITED STATES

J. S. ORMSBY
Sacramento 1849



5 Dollars.....Weight 130 gr.



10 Dollars.....Weight 257.5 gr.

PACIFIC COMPANY
San Francisco 1849



Dollar 1849.

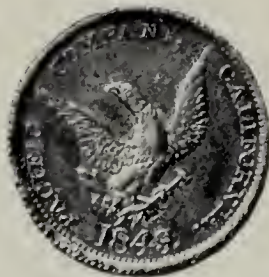


2½ Dollars 1849. Only known as a silver pattern but as it is exactly the same type as the other pieces it seems very probable that impressions were struck in gold.

PRIVATE GOLD COINS



5 Dollars 1849..... Weight 129.3 gr.



10 Dollars 1849..... Weight 228.5 gr.

SCHULTZ & COMPANY

San Francisco 1851



5 Dollars 1851..... Weight 128.75 gr. average

TEMPLETON REID

San Francisco 1849



10 Dollars 1849..... Weight 260 gr.

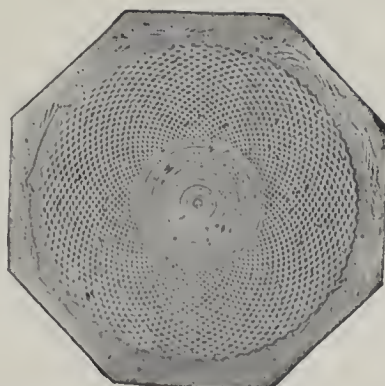


25 Dollars 1849.....Weight 649 gr.

UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE
San Francisco 1852



50 Dollars 1852. Fineness 887 Thous.



50 Dollars 1852. Fineness 900 Thous.

PRIVATE GOLD COINS



20 Dollars 1853. Fineness 884 Thous.....Weight 523.7 gr.



20 Dollars 1853. Fineness 900 Thous.....Weight 516 gr.



10 Dollars 1852. Fineness 884.



10 Dollars 1853. Fineness 884.



10 Dollars 1853. Fineness 900.

WASS, MOLITOR & CO.

San Francisco 1852



5 Dollars 1852.....Weight 132 gr. average

There are die varieties of this piece.



10 Dollars 1852.....Weight 262.7 gr.



10 Dollars 1855.

PRIVATE GOLD COINS



20 Dollars 1855. Large head.



20 Dollars 1855. Small head.



50 Dollars 1855..... Weight 1287.5 gr.

OREGON

OREGON EXCHANGE CO.

Oregon City 1849



5 Dollars 1849.....Weight 129.5 gr.



10 Dollars 1849.....Weight 262 gr.

The initials on reverse of 5 Dollar piece, K.M.T.A.W.R.G.S. stand for the members of the firm—Kilburne, Magruder, Taylor, Abernethy, Wilson, Rector, Gill & Smith. Evidently some of the partners had dropped out when the 10 Dollar piece was struck.

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